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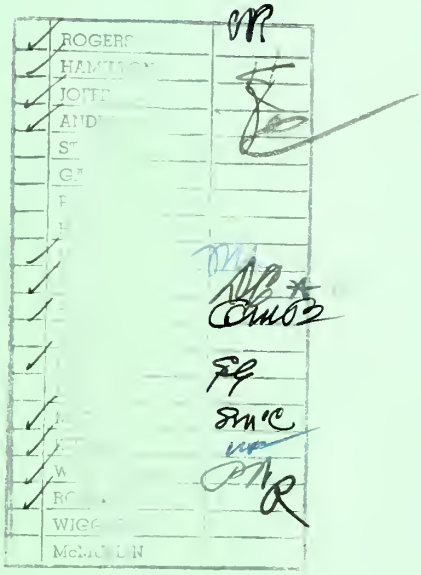
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 1953



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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

FICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the February 1953 Monthly Narrative Report
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Normal. Snow depths. Ice off Lake most month.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Rogers in Denver. Hamilton returned from Denver road meeting. Chapman & Gilbert to Spokane & Missoula re blister rust, smokejumping & get truck. Wohlbrandt back from Omaha, Mattson from Wash., Robinson from St. Louis & Dubuque with equipment & Elmore from Wash. Museum Course. Thuring to Denver BPR road materials training. C. S. Exam. Park Ranger Exam announced.	1-2
IN-SERVICE TRAINING:	In-service training meetings. Building fire films shown; fire engine training. Weekly News. Staff meetings.	2
PUBLICITY:	Yellowstone items in Casper paper. 169,000 broadsides on hand.	2-3
MAINTENANCE:	Snow plowing throughout month. Cleaning & painting equipment, etc.	3
CONSTRUCTION:	Building prefabricated walks & campground tables.	3
CONCESSIONERS:	Drs. Lueck & Pearson Annual Report. Mrs. Haynes visited.	3
RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND CHAPEL USE:	Sunday School. Youth group meetings. Boy Scouts conduct Sunday School. Church.	3
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Condon presented talks at Wilsall. Slides loaned Nat'l Live Cons. Society. Watson presented program at Boy Scout dinner at Gardiner.	4
MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITS:	Work on moose exhibit panels, museum accession, revision Old Faithful museum exhibits, etc.	4
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Bacteria and elk publications obtained for library. Sun dogs. Thermal data compiled.	4
NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:	Part-time clerk. Custer funds, etc. transferred to Custer Assn. Power tools ready for use. Yellowstone Fishes proof reviewed, also Old Faithful manuscript.	4-5

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TRAVEL:	632 visitors in 201 cars, fewer than last Feb. 26 in West to Old Faithful.	5
RANGER SERVICE:	Ski patrols, elk trapping, sign making, etc.	5
WILDLIFE: ANTELOPE:	Antelope census, 382 counted. Increase over that 2 years ago.	5
BIGHORN:	Observations by Kittams.	6
BISON:	Bison interfering with elk trapping. Five bulls slaughtered.	6
COYOTE:	Coyotes observed.	6
DEER:	18 deer observed while on antelope count. Doe chased by coyotes.	6
ELK:	Observations by Kittams, migration, feeding, record of 3 lifted last year, 2 by retrapping, 1 by hunting.	6
ELK TRAPPING:	109 trapped during month, 88 released in Montana by Fish & Game Dept.	7
RANGE:	Snow but little difficulty foraging.	7
FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:	Chapman attended smokejumper conference, Missoula. Offers to fire control aids.	7
BLISTER RUST CONTROL:	Chapman & Gilbert to Spokane to confer with Bur. Ento. & bring back truck.	7
BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION:	Training engine crew. Films shown, others booked. Entinguisher inventory. Equipment ordered for fitting forest fire trucks for building fire-fighting.	7-8
TRAILS:	Trail sign work. Trail crew applications.	8
LAW ENFORCEMENT:	No cases. Judge & Mrs. Brown attended daughter's wedding.	8
ACCIDENTS:	3 Class A accidents on Gallatin road.	8
DEATHS:	Wife of Charles Rector, mother of George McMullin, father of David Pierson, & Roe Emery died.	8
MARRIAGES:	Jane Vaughn Brown & Joseph M. Rapp, Jr. married.	8

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		Page
PERSONNEL:	Gertrude Kocher appointment Telephone Operator. Ernest Anderson promoted to Administrative Officer. Donald Freitag appointed Electrician. W. Leon Evans e.o.d. Big Bend, Asst. Supt. 11th; Irene Evans, Telephone Operator, resigned 1st; departed 3rd. Promotion John Jay to Supt., T. Roosevelt N.M.P. Seasonal Fire Control Aid (Dispatcher) position established.	9
MISCELLANEOUS:	F.E.U. and A.F.G.E. meetings. Credit Union officers elected.	9

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 11, 1953

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for February 1953

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of February 1953:

Weather Conditions. Temperatures and total precipitation for the month were about normal in comparison with the past ten years. Below zero temperatures were recorded on 4 days, occurring on February 10, 20, 21 and 24. Precipitation fell in the form of snow on 11 days. Fresh to strong winds occurred on the 9th and 10th. The maximum temperature at Mammoth was 59° on the 8th and the minimum minus 11° on the 20th. Total precipitation for the month was 1.22".

Snow depths as of February 28 for the representative stations in the park were as follows: Mammoth 5", Tower Fall 17", West Yellowstone 37", Northeast 35", Canyon 49" and Snake River 65".

On February 7 Yellowstone Lake was reported open except for Bridge Bay, with no ice around the bridge and docks at Fishing Bridge. It had been largely free of ice since about January 24. However, the Lake had refrozen before the end of the month.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers was on assignment in Denver throughout the month in connection with his project on the legislative history of areas of the National Park system. He expects to return to the park about March 7.

Assistant Superintendent Hamilton returned February 1 from the road maintenance meeting in Denver.

Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman and District Ranger Gilbert departed February 2 for Spokane, Washington, where they conferred with Bureau of Entomology officials, Mr. Gilbert driving back from Clarkia, Idaho, a Chevrolet stake truck purchased from the Bureau of Entomology. On their return to Missoula, Montana, the 5th, Mr. Chapman attended the Inter-Regional Conference on Aerial Operations. They returned to the park on the 6th.

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Park Engineer Wohlbrandt returned February 10 from assignment in the Region Two Office.

Resident Landscape Architect Mattson reported in the Washington Office February 9, following a week's assignment at Omaha, and returned to the park on the 26th.

Mechanical Supervisor Robinson returned February 10 with a pickup and Snogo which he had obtained at St. Louis, Missouri, and Dubuque, Iowa, respectively.

Assistant Park Naturalist Elmore returned February 12 from the Museum Training Course in the Washington Office.

Assistant Park Engineer Thuring left February 23 for Denver for two weeks attendance at the Bureau of Public Roads material testing school to become familiar with B.P.R. methods of design and control of bituminous material.

The Local Civil Service Board held an examination February 2 for Organization and Methods Examiner and Budget Examiner for which there was one contestant. Personnel Assistant Proper conducted the examination.

Park Ranger, GS-5 Examination No. 359 was announced February 10, the closing date for the filing of applications for which is March 10.

In-Service Training. The first of a series of in-service training meetings for all employees, on supervisory problems, employee training, etc. was held the evening of February 20.

Building fire films were shown in the Canteen on the 11th by Mechanical Supervisor Robinson and training of the Mammoth fire engine crew continued.

The Yellowstone Weekly News was issued regularly during the month to keep employees, concessioners and others currently informed of park happenings.

Staff Meetings were held February 11 and 25 on various park matters, the latter being devoted largely to the Project Construction Program.

Publicity. The February 15 issue of the Casper Tribune-Herald (35th Annual Wyoming Edition) contained several articles and pictures of Yellowstone National Park from information furnished by this area.

Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

A total of 169,000 Yellowstone broadsides remained on hand at the close of February.

Maintenance. Snow plowing was the major operation and there was some plowing nearly every day. All plowing to date has been done by use of push plows. Snow depths run from approximately 12 inches at Mammoth to 60 inches in Cooke.

Some time was spent in cleaning and painting equipment.

Three new culverts were installed on the Gardiner-Reese Creek Road and a little additional gravel placed at some wet spots.

Practically all road maintenance is being handled by three permanent and one WAE employee. Crews are staggered so that at least two men are on duty each day of the week.

Construction. A small crew was busy all during the month working on prefabricated wooden walks, Account 323.02, and on prefabricating campground tables and benches, Account 223.02. Some metal signs were also repaired and cleaned.

Concessioners. The 1953 Annual Report for Drs. Alfred M. Lueck and John A. Pearson was received February 3 and copies transmitted to the Washington and Regional Offices.

Mrs. J. E. Haynes of Haynes Inc. visited at the park February 10 from their winter headquarters at Bozeman, Montana.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. Regular Sunday School services were held in the Yellowstone National Park Chapel each Sunday morning at 10:30. The Youth Fellowship group has held their meetings each Sunday evening, alternating between the Yellowstone National Park Chapel and the Gardiner Church.

On February 8 the Boy Scouts conducted a special Sunday School service. That evening the Rev. Melvin Walker conducted the inter-denominational Protestant services, and at that time the Scouts took an active part.

Interpretive Services. Chief Park Naturalist Condon presented two talks on Yellowstone National Park at Wilsall, Montana, on February 16. A talk was given to the combined grade and high schools in the afternoon at which 180 pupils were in attendance. That evening at 8 p.m. a similar program was presented to the P.T.A. with 75 adults attending.

A set of 50 slides was sent to Mrs. Charles Cyrus Marshall on February 20. These slides were to be used to illustrate a talk

for presentation to the National Life Conservation Society at their annual meeting. The selection of these slides and the preparation of a narrative discussion to accompany them took considerable time.

Park Naturalist Watson presented a program to the annual Cub Scout dinner in Gardiner on the 26th of February. There were 40 persons in attendance. He used the motion picture "Geyserland."

Museum Activities and Exhibits. Francis Elmore made a new case for the moose exhibit panels which were received last month from the Director's Office. He also spent considerable time on museum accession and catalogue work. In addition to this he devoted considerable time to the roughing in of plans for the revision of exhibits at the Old Faithful museum.

The plate glass front for one of the large exhibit cases in the Mammoth museum was received during the month and placed in the case. The glass in this case was broken during last season.

Research and Observation. Copies of Dr. William G. Walter's papers entitled "The Identity of Aerobic Sporeforming Bacteria Isolated from Hot Springs" and "Thermophilic Aerobic Sporeforming Bacteria Isolated From Hot Springs in Yellowstone National Park" were received for the Yellowstone Park library.

On February 20 there were spectacular sun dogs in the sky. These were associated with the sunrise on that day. The weather was sub-zero, with a minimum recording of about 10° below zero.

Mr. Arthur R. Brazda published "Elk Migration Patterns, and Some of the Factors Affecting Movements in the Gallatin River Drainage, Montana" in the January 1953 issue of the "Journal of Wildlife Management." Much of the data for use in this publication was obtained in Yellowstone National Park.

Park Naturalist George Marler devoted the major part of the month of February reviewing all Superintendent's Annual and Monthly reports and assembling all information presented in these on observations of the thermal phenomena into one report covering this aspect of Yellowstone.

Natural History Association. Mrs. Alice Quist was employed by the Association as a clerk, working three afternoons a week during the month. She worked on the Association business and, in addition, spent considerable time on the photograph files.

On February 5 the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association transferred funds and title to books and other property to the Custer Battlefield Historical and Museum Association. Copies of the communication making this transfer were sent to the Regional Director's office and supplied the Superintendent.

The power tools purchased for the Association for use in the museum workshop have all been placed on stands and at the month's close all of this equipment is in working order.

The galley proof and page proof on the book "Yellowstone Fishes" by James Simon were received from the printer during the month. These were reviewed and checked, and it is expected that the publication will be printed in March by the Gazette Printing Company, Billings, Montana.

The manuscript on Old Faithful Geyser by George D. Marler has been reviewed and is ready to send to the Edward Brothers, Inc., Lithoprinters.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Continued light travel was recorded in comparison with the same month in 1952. A total of 632 visitors in 201 vehicles entered the park as compared with 1,164 visitors in 355 vehicles during February last year. This total includes 26 persons who entered the park at the West Entrance. Most of these latter visitors made the rough trip from West Yellowstone to Old Faithful, with over-snow equipment.

Ranger Service. Ranger personnel were engaged extensively in ski patrols during the month. District Ranger Way and Ranger Gunzel completed a 12-day patrol in the Lamar River drainage and the Pelican-Fern Lake areas. District Ranger Ela and Park Rangers Schoder and Hackett completed the Thorofare-Fox Creek patrol via Norris, Canyon and Lake. They were gone a total of 20 days and were able to make numerous wildlife observations. District Rangers Nelson and Gilbert completed the Snake River-Bechler patrol, District Ranger Anderson and Ranger Kern the Buffalo Lake, Boundary Creek and Bechler patrol, and Rangers Jones and Rohn made the trip from West Yellowstone to Old Faithful and return.

Other protection division activities included building snow removal at the various stations, measuring the snow courses, manufacture of trail signs, and the elk trapping operations which were started February 19 and continued throughout the month. Work on manual revisions and the motor vehicle accident analysis was suspended during the period in which most of the rangers were on ski patrol.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. ANTELOPE. An antelope census was conducted on February 12 indicating a herd of at least 382 antelope. Although the antelope were in small bands and widely disbursed it is thought an accurate count was obtained. Only 15 animals were counted north of the park boundary. The count of 382 indicates a considerable increase over the 215 counted on February 21 and 22, 1951.

dispersed!

BIGHORN. Bighorns were observed by Biologist Kittams in the Coal Mine Flat area on February 6, 22; on February 12, 23; on February 20, 15; and on February 27, 18.

Bighorns continue to seek winterfat and probably would eat more of it than grass if it were more abundant. Feeding sign of 11 antelope on the bighorn range indicated direct competition with bighorns for winterfat and sage. All sheep appear to be in good flesh except a runt lamb, one hornless ewe and one with turned-out horns, which are in rather poor condition.

BISON. A portion of the bison herd is feeding in the Lamar Horseshoe area (36 observed on February 26) and interfering with elk trapping. Five old bulls which were interfering particularly were slaughtered and arrangements made with the Area Agency at Billings to dispose of them to the Blackfoot Tribe at Browning, Montana.

COYOTE. Fourteen coyotes, all of which had both ears, were observed. Most are in pairs now. A report was received of a crop-eared coyote at the Mammoth dump.

DEER. Approximately 18 deer were observed in the park by the five observers while making the antelope count.

A chase in which a young doe deer was hotly pursued by a coyote was observed on Coal Mine Flat. Two other coyotes followed at a slow trot but apparently none of the coyotes followed the deer across the Gardner River.

ELK. Mr. Kittams observed that elk moved in numbers to the Lower Yellowstone Range just prior to February 12 when almost 500 were seen at the north end of Mt. Everts and a sudden increase of tracks was noted on the hills below Sepulcher Mountain. This marks the first significant use of herbaceous forage on the Lower Range this winter. A few elk were reported to have crossed the boundary. At higher elevations elk are feeding mostly on non-critical range. Light browsing of sagebrush and heavy utilization of willows was observed near Soda Butte.

He accounted for 141 elk in and immediately adjacent to the park in the Gallatin area. Many elk were feeding in the bottom along the river; others were up in deep snow. In one swale, which had been occupied by 16 elk, big sagebrush was browsed lightly to moderately and appeared to be the main forage taken. Snow was 26 inches deep there. Use of sage was much less, with grass being the important forage taken, where snow depths were shallower.

Elk in both the Yellowstone and Gallatin drainages are generally in good condition.

Records of three elk which were "lifted" to the hunting area last year were received, two by retrapping and one by hunting several miles north of the park.

ELK TRAPPING. The second catch of elk for the season occurred on February 21 and for the remainder of the month frequent catches were made in all traps except at Gardiner where conditions were unfavorable for trapping as snow is light and forage easy to get as yet. A total of 109 were trapped during February, 53 at Lamar, 19 at Crystal Creek, 27 at Blacktail, and 10 at Mammoth. Of the 88 hauled out by the Montana Fish and Game Department, 56 were released to the Butte Anglers' Club for the Birch Creek area and 32 to the Rocky Mountain Sportsmen's Association for the Hells Canyon area.

RANGE. According to observations of Mr. Kittams snow depths gradually increased during February and at the end of the month the entire northern winter ranges were covered by snow. Depths vary considerably due to wind action. They probably average about 10 inches over most of the Intermediate Yellowstone Range and about 6 inches on those portions which were free of snow in January. At lower elevations, critical range is covered by from 2 to 5 inches of snow. The new snow is generally soft. Feeding signs of elk and bison indicate that the animals are widely dispersed and are experiencing little difficulty in foraging. On February 19, snow near Crown Butte on the Gallatin Range was about 20 inches deep; on critical range it varied from 3 to 10 inches. Here, too, elk were rather widely dispersed.

Forest Fire Protection. On February 5, Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman attended the smokejumper conference held at Missoula, Montana. This conference is attended by representatives from all Regions of the Forest Service in which smokejumping activities are being carried on.

Offers were made to a number of applicants for fire control aid positions.

Blister Rust Control. District Ranger Gilbert and Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman went to Spokane, Washington, on February 2 to secure a Chevrolet stake body truck which Yellowstone had recently acquired through surplus channels from the Bureau of Entomology and to confer with that Bureau on plans regarding the coming season's program and details for the purchase of materials for the assembly of a new power sprayer.

Building Fire Protection. Training sessions for the Mammoth engine crew were continued. Four films obtained on loan from the Fire Underwriters were shown on February 11 in conjunction with this training. Several other films have been booked and will be shown to the Mammoth brigade and the local community as they are received.

The fire extinguisher inventory was completely revised and is now up-to-date.

Equipment for fitting the forest fire trucks for use in building fires, and for which the Regional Office allotted $770, has been ordered and should be received at an early date.

Trails. The trail sign program lagged somewhat during February due to most of the men being engaged in other activities. To date 300 signs have been completed and about 50 more are in various stages of manufacture. In addition, seven telephone post markers have been completed.

A number of applications for trail work continue to come in but to date only two of last year's men have re-applied.

Law Enforcement. No law enforcement cases were handled by the U. S. Commissioner during the month of February. Judge and Mrs. Brown left for Denver February 10 to attend the wedding of their daughter Jane Vaughn Brown and Joseph M. Rapp, Jr. on the 14th. They returned to the park on the 18th.

Accidents and Public Safety. Three motor vehicle accidents were reported during the month. All were Class "A". One of these accidents involved a Government vehicle and a visitor in the Gallatin area, another involved a Montana State snow plow and a visitor and the third was a single car accident involving a visitor. These accidents all occurred in the park along the highway between West Yellowstone and Bozeman and the predominating factor in all cases was determined as traveling too fast under the prevailing conditions of icy and snowy roads.

Deaths. Mrs. Charles Rector, wife of Powerhouse Operator Charles Rector, died February 2 in a Cody, Wyoming, hospital after a short illness.

Mrs. Phoebe McMullin, 87, mother of Electrical Supervisor George McMullin, passed away February 3 at Blackfoot, Idaho. Funeral services were held February 7.

Roe Emery, 78, long-time concessioner in Rocky Mountain National Park, who in early days of National Park Service maintained interest in Yellowstone concessions, died in Denver February 4 after three months illness.

W. A. Pierson, father of Head Buffalo Keeper David W. Pierson, passed away February 24 in Challis, Idaho.

Marriages. Jane Vaughn Brown, daughter of U. S. Commissioner and Mrs. James W. Brown, and Joseph M. Rapp, Jr. were married February 14 in St. John's Cathedral, Denver, Colorado.

Personnel. Mrs. Gertrude E. Kocher received an Indefinite Appointment as Telephone Operator, GS-2 on February 2, terminating her excepted appointment as WAE Telephone Operator, GS-2.

On February 5, Ernest R. I. Anderson received Promotion (Indefinite) from Chief Clerk, GS-10 to Administrative Officer, GS-11, which position was allocated February 4.

Donald J. Freitag entered on duty February 6 by Indefinite Appointment as Electrician, Ungraded.

The Promotion (Indefinite) and Change of Headquarters of W. Leon Evans, Assistant Chief Ranger, GS-9, to Assistant Superintendent, GS-11, Big Bend National Park, was effective 8:00 a.m. February 11, and the resignation of Mrs. Irene C. Evans, Telephone Operator, GS-2, at the close of February 1. They departed for Big Bend February 3.

Notice was received February 9 of the Promotion (Indefinite) and Change of Headquarters of John W. Jay, Assistant Chief Ranger, GS-9, to Superintendent, GS-10, Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park. A press release was issued on the 20th from the Washington Office on this transfer. Mr. Jay departed February 21 and entered on duty at that area on the 22nd.

The seasonal position of Fire Control Aid (Dispatcher), GS-5, was established February 26 in lieu of Fire Control Aid (General), GS-5, allocation for which position had been restricted to the 1952 season.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of Federal Employees Union Local No. 465 was held in the Canteen February 2.

On February 9 the regular monthly meeting of the American Federation of Government Employees was held in the Canteen.

Pursuant to the January 27 Federal Credit Union annual meeting and election of Board of Directors and Committee Members, the following officers have now been designated by the Board and Committees: Board of Directors: Lester C. Abbie, President; Betty Lee Proznick, Philip H. Wohlbrandt and Thomas A. Bowman, Vice Presidents; and J. Stanley Fillmore, Secretary-Treasurer. Chairman of Supervisory Committee, Willis Stanton, with Thomas M. Thompson and Alfred A. Bowman members. Chairman of Credit Committee, John W. Galle, with Thomas F. Ela and Warren D. Hotchkiss members and Ralph Reed and Roger H. Miller alternates.

Edmund B. Rogers
Superintendent

In duplicate
cc Region Two, in quintuple
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